



**Date:** October 10, 2005  
**To:** Gerald R. Miller, City Manager  
**From:** Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer  
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** City Report For Week Ending October 7, 2005

---

This *City Report* highlights various activities for the week ending October 7, 2005. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP #5**

Personal Preparedness: Be in the Know! Five Days of Self-Reliance

**Elements to an Emergency Preparedness Plan**

**Make your home safe.**

- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home and change batteries every six months.
- Clear hallways and exits for easy evacuation.
- Keep ABC type fire extinguishers and know how and when to use them.
- Locate the gas main and other utilities and know how and when to turn them off.

For a complete guide to planning and preparation, and Emergency Preparedness Tips #1-4, visit [www.longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov).

**Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts**

**City Manager**

As of Wednesday, the City's *Time For Change* campaign has raised more than \$21,000. The fundraiser ended on Friday, October 7.

**Library Adopts Mississippi's Long Beach Public Library**

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the City of Long Beach Public Library has adopted Long Beach Mississippi's Public Library in an effort to get books to those affected by the storm. Long Beach, MS was in the eye of the hurricane and the library building was totally demolished. Long Beach, MS anticipates that temporary quarters in a small doublewide trailer will be up in two weeks. Then Long Beach, CA library staff will help them assume normal operations by sending library materials that were donated through the Friends of the Library.

**Public Works, Police and Community Development**

Sharon Diggs-Jackson, Public Affairs Officer at Long Beach Airport, will be serving as a Public Information Officer for FEMA and will be assigned to FEMA's Joint Information Center in Atlanta, GA from October 12 - 26.

October 10, 2005

Page 2

### **Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts (continued)**

#### **Public Works, Police and Community Development**

The Red Cross has also deployed Rita Hooker, the City's Nuisance Abatement Officer at the Police Department, LaVerne Duncan, the Acting Housing Assistance Officer in the Housing Authority Bureau of Community Development, and Phyllis Venable, Business Assistance Officer in the Neighborhood Services Bureau of Community Development, to the Gulf region.

#### **Fire**

Paul Rodriguez and Riese Montes, two of the four Long Beach Firefighters assigned to the Gulf Region, returned home on October 4. A welcoming committee of fellow Firefighters and family members greeted the pair as they exited their plane at the Long Beach Airport. The other firefighters deployed to the Gulf region, Paul Lepore and Larry Coots, returned on October 6. Both teams were deployed for 30 days to assist FEMA with the Hurricane relief efforts in the devastated region.

### **MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Fire**

A *Strike Team* was sent to the Topanga Wildland Fire as part of the regional response. A second *Strike Team* was formed with the assistance of West Covina and El Segundo resources. A *Strike Team* is a standard deployment within the State's Office of Emergency Services (OES) system and consists of five Fire Engines and a Battalion Chief. They protected several neighborhoods and saved a number of structures that were threatened by the 20,000-acre fire. Fire departments throughout the southland remain on high alert during this year's wildfire season.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS**

#### **City Manager**

October is Cultural Diversity Month. The City of Long Beach is committed to network resources such as the Human Dignity Program and the Human Relations Commission to ensure a positive quality of life for all.

Activities to commemorate the month include a "Peace and Unity" celebration at Long Beach City College, Pacific Coast Campus, on **Tuesday, October 11** at 11:00 a.m. The program will include a dedication of a Peace and Unity Pole and a presentation of a Peace Quilt from Harbor Area Halfway Houses.

#### **Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau**

Join the Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) at a *Potluck Mixer* on Thursday, October 13 at 6 p.m. to celebrate Long Beach's cultural diversity. Long Beach neighborhood groups and residents are invited to hear a presentation by Anitra Dempsey, the City's Human Dignity Officer. Please bring a cultural dish to share. For more information, or to RSVP, please email [JoAnn\\_Rojas@longbeach.gov](mailto:JoAnn_Rojas@longbeach.gov) or call 570.1010.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)**

#### **Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau**

A workshop on Disaster Management will be held at the Neighborhood Resource Center on **Monday, October 10**, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The City of Long Beach preparedness plans, programs available to the community, and steps that can be taken by residents to be better prepared for a disaster will be discussed. For more information, or to RSVP, please email [JoAnn\\_Rojas@longbeach.gov](mailto:JoAnn_Rojas@longbeach.gov) or call 570.1010.

#### **Health and Human Services**

The City of Long Beach is developing a strategic plan, *Within Our Reach: A Community Partnership to End Homelessness*, to prevent and end homelessness in Long Beach, and is holding a series of community Focus Group meetings to obtain public input. The next focus group meeting is on **Saturday, October 15**, 1:00 p.m., at the Health Department, 2525 Grand Avenue, Room 103.

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau**

Preparations are underway for the completion of Tim Salmon Plaza at Stearns Champions Park, which is scheduled to open on **Thursday, October 13**. Tim Salmon, the Angels Organization, Home Depot, and the Department are funding this project to rebuild the little league field, put in a new center plaza, and add new bleachers and benches.

#### **City Manager**

The public is invited to the City's *Community Disaster Preparedness Forum 2005* on **October 29** from 9:00 am – noon at the Long Beach Convention Center. More information will be provided in next week's City Report.

#### **Library Services**

The Friends of the Library have launched a new silent auction book sale at the Main Library. Items up for bid can be found in a display case located just outside the Friends Bookstore. There are books for everyone: gourmet cooking, golf resorts around the world and the greatest inventions of the last 2,000 years.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### **Fire**

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,557 emergency calls for service: 172 calls for fires, of which 22 involved structures; and 735 emergency medical calls, of which 513 required paramedics.

#### **Police**

Citywide, police officers responded to 741 priority one; 1,733 priority two; and 1,356 priority three calls for service, for a total of 3,830 responses.

On October 1, the officers conducted a Traffic Safety checkpoint at Pacific Coast Highway and Daisy Avenue. During the operation, officers made 9 arrests, issued 82 citations and towed 35 cars.

October 10, 2005

Page 4

## **PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)**

### **Police**

Officers participating in the Safe Passage Program at Cabrillo High School arrested two non-student subjects for possession of illegal weapons last week. The Safe Passage Program places officers around all high schools and routes of travel after school in an effort to deter unlawful activity and maintain order.

### **Health and Human Services**

DHHS participated in the California Department of Health Services (DHS) broadcast on *Public Health Preparedness: Pandemic Influenza California Update 2005* on October 6. The Bioterrorism Preparedness Program conducted a tabletop exercise after the broadcast, which exercised the DHHS Pandemic Influenza plan. Over 30 DHHS staff members, Long Beach Unified School District, hospital infectious disease, and California DHS staff attended the broadcast and exercise.

The DHHS Bioterrorism Preparedness Program hosted a Public Health Terrorism Liaison Officer's strategic planning meeting on October 4. Staff from DHHS and the Los Angeles County DHS and Pasadena Public Health Department was in attendance.

The DHHS Epidemiology Program hosted the Southern California Epidemiology Exchange on October 7 at the Miller Family Health Education Center. Epidemiology Exchange convenes epidemiologist and public health professionals from local health jurisdictions on a quarterly basis to present local cases of communicable diseases, unusual disease occurrences and reporting issues in the Southern California region. Department staff presented regional health information operations, an overview of syphilis, and childhood obesity.

## **NEIGHBORHOODS**

### **Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau**

Long Beach Gas and Oil Department, formerly Long Beach Energy, is asking its customers to schedule furnace pilot relighting appointments now! Customers can save time and inconvenience by scheduling their pilot relighting before the winter season arrives. Residents and businesses that delay until the cold season hits can expect extended waits for this service. Appointments can be made by visiting [www.lbenergy.org](http://www.lbenergy.org), or by calling 570.5700, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

### **Fire**

On September 28, Long Beach Fire Ambassadors and Engine 17 visited Buffum Elementary to teach third grade students the importance of fire safety. Students went through the Fire Safety House, which simulates a house full of smoke.

### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau**

During the week of October 1 to 7, sign-ups were held for flag football and volleyball at local parks. The Department's Youth Sports Division currently has 20 teams with a total of approximately 250 youths involved.

October 10, 2005

Page 5

### **NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)**

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau**

On October 4, the Hudson LB WRAP program began its *Family Tree* project, which highlights this month's theme of "Friends, Family and School," with 54 Hudson Middle School program participants in attendance.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Community Development, Disadvantaged Community Assistance Division**

On October 4, Long Beach and neighboring business owners and representatives met for the Diversity Outreach Networking Session. Walter Beckham, MBA, CEO of the Small Business Management Consortium and Business Professor at Pasadena City College, was the keynote speaker and discussed business plan development. During the session a brief overview of how to do business with the City was provided. All participants marketed their business. Attendees were made aware of current City procurement opportunities.

#### **Community Development, Disadvantaged Community Assistance Division**

On September 21, the Diversity and Economic Opportunity Division held a Developer/Contractor Networking Business mixer in partnership with the National Association of Minority Contractors. Several major developers and contractors participated in the event held at the Long Beach Airport Marriot Hotel. Forty-two potential Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 3 businesses attended the event, which included several local diverse businesses. Representatives from the City and the Long Beach Unified School District discussed how to do business with their agencies and informed participants of current and upcoming construction and related opportunities.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### **Health and Human Services**

Youth Health Education hosted a *Back in Style* event at the Houghton Park Skate Park on September 28 to bring awareness of the Youth Health Education programs and other youth services that are available with the City. About 300 youth participated in the event, which featured food, music, exhibitor booths, and giveaways. The skateboarding company Flowlab brought its tour bus to the event and helped coordinate skateboarding contests. Seven skateboards were awarded to the winners of the contests.

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau**

The annual *Walk for the Animals* and blessing of animals was held at Heartwell Park on October 2, with an estimated attendance of 225

The SCMA Boat Show, with an estimated total attendance of 2,000 on October 6 and 7, and an estimated total attendance of 4,000 on October 8 and 9, was held in Rainbow Harbor.

**SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)**

**Long Beach Energy, Gas Services and Business Operations Bureau**

On October 1, bureau staff participated in the American Solar Energy Society's 3rd Annual Tour at Colorado Lagoon. Seven solar powered homes in the Long Beach area were open to the public for viewing, hybrid and electric vehicles were on display, and students from Millikan and Poly High School presented informative solar sessions. LBGO provided attendees with information regarding the safe use of gas, steps to take during an earthquake, proper installation of water heaters, and carbon monoxide prevention. LBGO representatives also briefed attendees on energy saving tips.

**OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE**

**Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau**

Staff completed a total of 3,219 service calls. This total included 932 Gas and Water Utility Turn Ons, and 639 Turn Offs. During this period, 1,346 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 302 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 497 emergency phone calls that resulted in 122 emergency orders being sent out.

**Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau**

- Repairs to the bike path in El Dorado Park East Area 3 have been completed.
- Cleaning and rough grading are continuing on the street medians on Del Amo Blvd. between Long Beach Blvd. and the Los Angeles River.
- Soil is being imported for rough grading of the new sidewalk on the south side of Del Amo Blvd. between the Los Angeles River and Oregon St.
- The new sidewalk on the north side of Del Amo Blvd. has been surveyed and is ready for rough grading to begin.
- Surveying has also begun on the street medians on Atlantic Ave. between Artesia Blvd. and 68th St., on Cherry Ave. between Artesia Blvd. and 70th St., and on Artesia Blvd. between Obispo Ave. and Downey Ave.
- Existing median trees that are designated to remain have been trimmed on both Del Amo Blvd. and Artesia Blvd. between Long Beach Blvd. and the Los Angeles River.

**Public Works, Street Improvements**

Contact: 570-5160

La Perla Ave.	El Mirador Ave. to El Cedral St.
College Circle	Atherton frontage full circle
Keynote St.	Rutgers Ave. to Bellflower frontage
Maine Ave.	Spring St. to 31st St.
Freeland St.	California St. to Cerritos Ave.
Scott St.	Rahn Ave. to Long Beach Blvd.
Shipway Ave.	Los Santos Dr. to Point North of Los Santos Dr.

October 10, 2005

Page 7

**OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE (continued)**

**Public Works, Street Improvements**

Orange Ave. 11th street to point North of 11th St.

17th St. Long Beach Blvd. to Linden Ave.

Freeman Ave. 8th St. to 10th St.

Eucalyptus Ave. 20th St. to Hill St.

**Estimated completion: October 2005**

Clark Ave. Spring St. to Wardlow Rd.

**Estimated Completion: November 2005**

Del Amo Blvd. Los Angeles River to Long Beach Blvd.

Artesia Blvd. West of Long Beach Blvd. to Harbor St.

Atlantic Ave. North of Artesia Blvd. to a point North of 68th St.

Cherry Ave. North of Artesia Blvd. to 70th St.

Artesia Blvd. East of Obispo Ave. to Downey Ave.

**Estimated Completion: December 2005**

GRM: KP: arc

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager  
Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager  
Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager  
City Manager Department Heads  
Tom Modica, Manager, Government Affairs  
Jyl Marden, City Council Liaison